WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
RECEIVED
27 FEB 1958
A.

BARMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Health Report for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

The Registrar General's estimate of population showed no change over the previous year. The number of live births increased by seven and the number of deaths increased by two.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year (Two in previous year) but there were two more deaths from Cancer, none of them being Cancer of the lung or stomach.

There was no epidemic of notifiable infectious disease during the year.

New notifications of Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) were one fewer than in the previous year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

EVAN RICHARDS,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

1956.

SECTION A. GENERAL STATISTICS. BARMOUTH URBAN.

Area of Urban District	1952.8 acres.
Rateable Value	£17843.
Population (Registrar General's figures)	2330.
Sum Representated by a Penny Rate	£65.
Number of inhabited houses (According to the Rate Books) at end of year	960.

COMPARABILITY FACTORS.

Births	1.10
Deaths	0.83

VITAL STATISTICS.

Nett Births (Live and Still)	44
Births (Live)	42
Births (Still)	2
LIVE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	18.03
LIVE BIRTHS	42

	Males.	Females.
Total	20	22
Legitimate	18	19
Illegitimate	2	3

Illegitimate Birth Rate (Percentage of Total Live Births) = 11.90

DEATHS

Total 38

Males.	Females.
20	18

Rate per 1,000 population 16.27

1955 figures 15.45

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Males.	Females.
Total 1		
Legitimate -	1	-
Illegitimate -	-	-

Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 live births) 23.80
1955 figures 28.57

Deaths of Legitimate Infants 23.80
Mortality (per 1,000 live births) 23.80

Deaths of Illegitimate Infants
Mortality (per 1,000 live births) Nil.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS.

	Males.	Females.
Total	1	-
Legitimate	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths connected with childbirth and Pregnancy 1

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

Total	8
Rate per 1,000 population	3.43

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Total	Nil
Rate per 1,000 population	Nil

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

One Medical Officer of Health
One Public Health Inspector holding appointment of Public Health Inspector/Surveyor.

(2) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Water Analysis (Chemical) carried out by the Public Analysist, Chester.
Water (bacteriological examination) done by the Public Health Laboratory, Aberystwyth.
Milk (tests for cleanliness, keeping quality and Tubercle Bacilli) also carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at no charge to the Local Authority.

(3) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

One ambulance is stationed at Barmouth.

(4) INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

Held at Chapel Vestry, Park Road fortnightly.

(5) ANTE NATAL CLINICS.

Held at the Cottage Hospital, Dolgelley - twice a month.

(6) ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Held at the Cottage Hospital, Dolgelley twice a month.

(7) TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC.

Held at the Cottage Hospital, Dolgelley, twice a month.

(8) DIPTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health. Immunisation of babies and young children carried out at the Primary Schools at regular intervals.

(9) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Total Number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year - 3

Scarlet Fever	Nil
Bacillary Dysentry	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil
Measles	3
Infantile Paralysis	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES.

Pulmonary - Total 1

Males.	Females.
1	-

Non-Pulmonary - Total Nil

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS - Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS - New cases and Mortality during 1956 in age groups.

Age Periods	New Cases. Respiratory		New Cases. Non-Respiratory		Deaths. Respiratory		Deaths. Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
2								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25	1							
35								
45								
55								
65								
75								

P.T.O.

CAUSES OF DEATH 1956.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Cancer Stomach	-	-
" Lungs	-	-
" Breast	-	2
" Uterus	-	1
" Other sites	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	-
Coronary diseases, angina	4	2
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2
Other heart diseases	2	4
Other circulatory diseases	2	1
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-
Bronchitis	2	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	1
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
All other accidents	-	-
Suicide	1	-
	20	18

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action taken but cases of persons who might fall into this category were kept under observation.

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
RECEIVED
27 FEB 1958

BARMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECR., 1956.

To the Chairman and Members,
Barmouth Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to submit my report upon the Sanitary circumstances of the district during 1956.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

I have but very little to report upon the main water supply undertaking. An adequate and wholesome supply was maintained throughout the year and all the bacteriological tests taken indicated that the water supply was "Highly Satisfactory".

We did however experience some trouble with the Tynyffynnon supply. Its source is a small spring which supplies about 12 cottages situated in the upper reaches of the old Barmouth area. This particular area of the district is above the limits of supply of the main source. Until the summer of 1955 the 100 gallon slate cistern, fed by the spring, proved to be a sufficient storage reservoir to meet the normal needs but during the prolonged period of drought experienced in 1955 the spring failed entirely in its supply. Through some unknown reason the subterranean water channels were affected and the yield of the spring did not recover its previous proportions during the year. Thus an adequate supply could not be maintained because the yield of water and the small capacity of the reservoir were too small to cope with the demands. The Council therefore increased the reservoir capacity by the installation of a second tank of about 800 gallons. This solved the problem most effectively and no further complaints were received. The quality of this water also is highly saistfactory.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

In my previous report I referred to a collapsed section of main sewer in Church Street, Barmouth but it was during the early part of 1956 that the appropriate repair works, including the construction of a new manhole chamber, were carried out. We also experienced a similar, but not as extensive, collapse in the main sewer in Epworth Street. This incident involved the construction of a manhole chamber.

The Council engaged the services of a firm of Consulting Engineers to report upon and to prepare schemes for (a) the Harbour Outfall Sewer and (b) the Cardigan Bay Outfall Sewer. In the case of the Harbour outfall the original pipeline discharged into the main channel of the Mawddach Estuary but with the formation of new channels inshore over a period of years the pipeline collapsed through lack of support underneath. Subsequently the sewer discharged at a point in close proximity to the quayside and the Council were faced with a major scheme. The Consulting Engineers have carried out a series of borehole tests and the preparation of the major scheme is well in hand.

The Cardigan Bay outfall sewer, many years ago, discharged into the sea well below low-water mark but during the intervening years the pipeline suffered from the effects of rough seas and the gradual rotting away of the timber piles. Eventually the pipeline collapsed and the sewage discharged on the beach immediately below the promenade. In 1948 the Council spent close on £8000 in renewing the upper section and the present proposal is to extend the pipeline further towards low-water mark.

The drainage and sewage disposal systems for a combined farm and camping site in Llanaber were greatly improved and enlarged in order to abate a serious nuisance that previously existed. The disposal unit is in the form of a septic tank and its installation has abated the nuisance.

There was one case of overflowing cesspool and the owners, after due notice, had it attended to.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There were no cases of pollution of rivers or streams.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were no known cases of change over from the dry conservancy system to the water system.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of refuse from domestic and business premises was carried out in the normal manner. Every effort was made to keep the refuse tip free from flies and vermin.

6. SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Total number of inspections	320
Notices served - Formal	3
- Informal	9

Inspections.

Bakehouses	8
Cowsheds	3
Dairies	6
Milkshops	10
Ice Cream Premises	45
Fried Fish Premises.....	12
Factories	53
Restaurants	3
Slaughterhouses	165
Blocked Drains	15

Notices served re Defective Drains.

Formal	Nil
Informal	3

Camping Sites.

No. of sites used for camping purposes	3
No. of sites licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936	1
Estimated maximum of campers resident in the area at any one time during the summer season	800

No complaints were received arising from the control of or behaviour in any of these Camps.

Smoke Abatement. No complaints were received.

Swimming Baths. None.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, etc. One case of flea infestation was reported and appropriate action was taken.

Rodent Control. The rodent population was kept under control by the efficient services rendered by the Rodent Officer.

Schools. Satisfactory.

7. HOUSING.

As stated in my last Report building operations on the 26 houses included in the Council's frontal development scheme were suspended owing to the financial difficulties of the Contractors concerned. A few months elapsed before the Council were able to re-start on the work, the new Contractors being a local firm. The re-start of a scheme by another firm of Contractors naturally involved some considerable amount of preliminary work but the progress during the remaining months of the year was quite satisfactory.

The Council purchased one large house and two small cottages. The house was converted into a lock-up shop on the ground floor and into a maisonette on the remaining floors. The two cottages were converted into a single dwelling unit.

No new houses, under private enterprise, were built.

Two applications for improvement grants were received and the applications were duly granted.

8. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing Defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts (excluding Council Houses) 21

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 32

2. (a) Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....Nil

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....Nil

3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....Nil

4. Number of dwelling houses, exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 5

5. Remedy for defects during the year without service of Formal Notice .....Nil

   Rendered fit - Informal action by Local Authority .....Nil

9. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

1. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

   (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....Nil

   (b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice

      i. by owners .....Nil
      ii. by the Local Authority in default of owners .....Nil

2. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

   (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 4

   (b) Number of dwelling houses in which defaults were remedied after service of Formal Notice

      i. by the owners 2
      ii. by the Local Authority in default of owners .....Nil

3. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

   (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....Nil

   (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....Nil

4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....Nil

(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit .....Nil

5. Housing Act, 1936 - Part V - Overcrowding.

(a) i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 4

ii. Number of families dwelling therein 4

iii. Number of persons dwelling therein 13

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year....Nil

(c) i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1

ii. Number of persons concerned in above 4

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .....Nil

10. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Samples of milk and ice cream were submitted for analysis but in no case did we receive an adverse report.

All meat slaughtered locally was duly inspected.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number of animals killed and inspected	171	11	2648	272
All diseases except Tuberculosis - whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	No records kept - quantities condemned not weighed.			
Tuberculosis only - whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil